

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/803,167

Examiner

Anand Bhatnagar

Applicant(s)

HANNIGAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/05/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03/09/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1- 24 are allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The closest prior art of Stenzel et al. (U.S. patent 4,591,707) teaches to place a layer of a hallmark/watermark onto a paper substrate wherein the paper is then printed either before or after the watermark has been applied to the paper (Stenzel et al.; col. 3 lines 60-67). Regarding claim 1: Stenzel does not teach the feature of "applying a first material on a substrate in a pattern corresponding to a digital watermark, said first material being transparent, printing an image on said substrate, said image having different characteristics in the areas where said first material is located, wherein the first material affects the printing of the image to embed the digital watermark in the printed image such that the digital watermark is readable from a digital image scanned from the printed image."

Regarding claim 6: Stenzel does not teach the feature of "applying a first material on a screen in a pattern that represents a digital watermark, projecting an image on said screen, said screen reflecting said image with different characteristics in the areas where said first material is located, whereby recordings of said projected image bear said digital watermark."

Regarding claim 9: Stenzel does not teach the feature of "projecting an image on a screen which has areas with different reflective characteristics in a

pattern that represents a digital watermark, recording images from said screen, whereby the recorded images bear said digital watermark."

Regarding claim 10: Stenzel does not teach the feature of "a substrate and a layer of material positioned on said substrate in a pattern that represents a digital watermark, said material being invisible to the human eye and affecting ink deposited on said substrate, wherein the material affects the printing of an image to embed the digital watermark in the printed image such that the digital watermark is readable from a digital image scanned from the printed image".

Regarding claim 15: Stenzel does not teach the feature of "a pattern of area having different reflectivity or light absorption properties representing a digital watermark such that when an image is projected onto the screen the areas modify the projected image so that the projected image on the screen bears the digital watermark."

Regarding claim 18: Stenzel does not teach the feature of "a material on the substrate in a pattern corresponding to a digital watermark, said material being operable to change characteristics of an image printed on the object according to the pattern to embed the digital watermark in the printed image such that the digital watermark is readable from a digital image scanned from the printed image."

Regarding claim 21: Stenzel does not teach the feature of "a pattern of areas having different reflectivity or light absorption properties representing a digital watermark such that when an image is projected onto the screen, the

areas modify the projected image so that a recording of the projected image bears the digital watermark."

Regarding claim 22: Stenzel does not teach the feature of "providing a pattern of areas having different properties representing a digital watermark on the screen and projecting an image on the screen, the projected image being combined with the pattern on the screen such that a recording of the projected image on the screen bears the digital watermark."

3. Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Contact Information

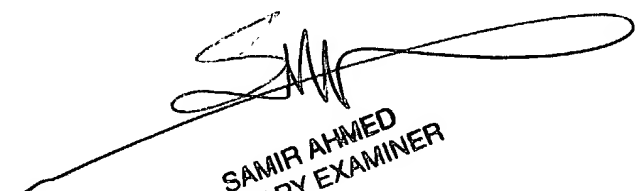
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is (703) 306-5914, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is 703-308-6604, group fax is 703-872-9306, and Tech center 2600 customer service office number is 703-306-0377.

AB

Anand Bhatnagar

Art Unit 2623

September 19, 2004


SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER